

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 141756Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 1091

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR FIRESTONE'S PRESENTATION OF
CREDENTIALS

1. AMBASSADOR FIRESTONE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO KING BAUDOUIN I ON FRIDAY, JUNE 14 AT 1000. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TWENTY MINUTE PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE KING AND THE AMBASSADOR:

2. THE KING FEELS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENTS IN GERMANY AND PARTICULARLY IN FRANCE ARE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE EFFORT AND MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE US. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT HE RECOGNIZES AND APPRECIATES THAT HE HAS ARRIVED AT A TRANSITIONAL TIME IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

3. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD THE KING THAT HE DOES NOT TAKE FOR GRANTED THE TRADITIONALLY WARM RELATIONS BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE US, AND THAT HIS GOAL WAS NOT ONLY TO CONTINUE THEM BUT TO STRENGTHEN THEM. THE KING EXPRESSED PARTICULAR PLEASURE WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S PLEDGE TO REPRESENT THE US AND TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE KING AND THE BELGIUM PEOPLE.

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4. THE KING REVIEWED IN DETAIL HIS PAST ASSOCIATION

WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON HIS 1959 TRIP TO CALIFORNIA.

5. THE MEETING WAS MOST CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY. FIRESTONE

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